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Republican Party (N.Y.)

Platform of the Republican Party of the State of N.Y.

[New York ?]

[1916]

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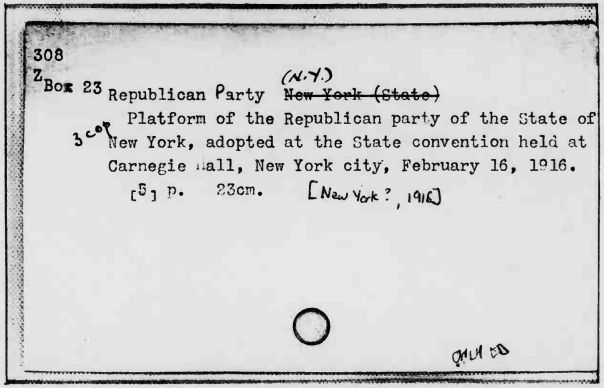
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Box 23 Republican Party (N.Y.) ~~New York (State)~~
Platform of the Republican party of the State of
3 cop New York, adopted at the State convention held at
Carnegie Hall, New York city, February 16, 1916.
[5] p. 23cm. [New York?, 1916]

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PLATFORM

OF THE

REPUBLICAN PARTY

of the State of New York

Adopted at the State Convention
Held at Carnegie Hall, New York City
February 16, 1916

PLATFORM of the REPUBLICAN PARTY

OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Adopted at the State Convention
Held at Carnegie Hall, New York City
February 16, 1916

The Republican Party in New York, speaking through its representatives in a Convention advisory to the enrolled voters, declares its purpose to conduct, with full confidence of success, a vigorous and constructive campaign on behalf of the great principles of government and of social order for which it has stood from the beginning of its history.

We pledge ourselves to the support of a patriotic and forward-facing Americanism. The Republican Party stands for American principles of government; for the full rights and privileges of American citizenship; for the defense of America and Americans against attack from any quarter whatsoever; for the welfare of American business and for the protection of American labor; but above all for those enduring principles of national honor, of liberty, of justice, and of fidelity to national obligations, through adherence to which the nation has grown great. It believes in the truth of Washington's declaration that the name of American which belongs to us in our national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from either local or racial discriminations.

THE COMMON DEFENCE

It is the fixed policy of the American people to observe good faith toward all nations and to do justice to them all. We wish to continue on terms of peace and friendship with the whole world, and we endorse and support the movement designed to make increasingly difficult and improbable a resort to force in the settlement of international differences. But we assert the right of America to oppose any violation of international agreements to which it is a party, and its duty

to insist upon the security and guarantees of the law of nations.

We advocate complete preparation for the common defence—economic, industrial, and financial as well as military.

For defence against attack from without we rely first upon the navy. We urge that it be provided with a General Staff and so enlarged in ships, in officers, and in men, and so supplemented by vessels auxiliary to the fighting force of such types as experience has shown to be necessary for effectiveness, that it will constitute a well-organized, a complete and a certain defense against attack, both on the Atlantic and on the Pacific. We believe that the nation should continue to follow the advice of Washington and avoid "the necessity of those overgrown military establishments which, under any form of government, are inauspicious to liberty." But we also believe in the vital principle of democracy, enacted into law under Washington's administration, that every citizen owes the freeman's duty of defence for his country and of the training necessary to make that defence effective. "The Republican Party stands for the gospel of patriotic service to our country by every citizen according to his ability in peace and in war." So long as present conditions continue to prevail in other parts of the world, the military establishment of the United States should be substantially strengthened. The regular army should be made adequate to perform its traditional duty of serving as the nation's first line of land defence, and of being the nucleus and the source of instruction and administration of the army of citizen soldiers, upon which in the last event the safety of the nation must depend. Provision should be made for the effective training of such a citizen soldiery under the sole authority of the national government. A sufficient supply of the machines and munitions of war should be ready at hand in case the necessity for their use should ever be forced upon the American people. Experience has shown that in time of war what a nation stints in materials, it squanders in human life. The most fatuous extravagance is to provide an inadequate supply. Less than enough is foolish waste.

The enlargement of the naval and military establishments should be for purposes of defence alone. We support no policy of foreign conquest or domination or of interference with the independence and internal policies of any other people. Should the nations of the world, on the conclusion of the present war, be ready to join in new and well-secured international policies for the limitation of armaments and for the extension of the rule of law, there should be willing and complete co-operation on our part.

Since timely disbursement to prepare for danger frequently prevents much greater disbursement to repel it, we favor meeting the necessary expense of complete preparation for the common defence by the application of the resources already at the command of the government and by just revision of the tariff in accordance with Republican principles. We assert that these measures, with the economies practicable under a proper budget system, will be sufficient.

ENFORCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

We believe that it is the duty of the American Government to bear its part in reestablishing international law and in providing it with sufficient sanctions. If the law of nations is to be binding, and if the decisions of tribunals charged with the application of that law to international controversies are to be respected and enforced, then violations of the law that are of such a character as to threaten the peace and order of the community of nations must be deemed to be a violation of the right of every civilized nation to have the law maintained, and a legal injury to every nation. In order to bear its proper part in carrying forward this world policy, America must show that while it has no purpose to interfere in controversies between other nations, it will insist upon universal observance of the principles and rules of international law.

MEXICO

No patriotic citizen will embarrass the government of his country in its dealings with other nations; but it is not possible to regard, without the gravest dissatisfaction and dismay, the results of the policy of the present administration toward Mexico. That policy which has been proclaimed as one of watchful waiting, has in reality been one of active but uncertain, inconstant and irresponsible interference. The Wilson administration destroyed established government in Mexico and now stands on one side while anarchy and chaos reign in that country. It has stood aloof while American men have been killed, American women outraged, and American property destroyed. Intervention in the internal affairs of Mexico by the Administration has inflicted upon the Mexican people and upon all foreigners resident in Mexico anarchy, bloodshed, and suffering almost without modern parallel.

We demand that American rights in Mexico shall be protected. This should be done either by a responsible Mexican government, or through co-operation with other American republics in such way as shall secure the independence, good order, and prosperity of Mexico.

THE PHILIPPINES

We denounce the measure regarding the Philippine Islands that has passed the Senate and is now pending in the House of Representatives as an abandonment of the duty of this nation and a breach of trust toward the Filipinos. Under the Wilson Administration the work begun under President McKinley and continued under the subsequent Republican administrations, in improving the material, intellectual and political welfare of the Filipinos and in building up a civil service on the merit system, goes for naught. The policies advocated by the Democratic party, will, if persisted in, almost certainly lead to factional disturbance and inter-tribal war and to the seizure of the Islands by some foreign power.

TARIFF COMMISSION

We demand the restoration of the Republican policy of a tariff commission with ample power to inquire into matters of cost, production, and labor conditions in this and other countries, and to supply the Congress with the fullest possible and most accurate information for guidance in the formulation of a permanent tariff policy that shall adequately protect American labor as well as conserve and develop American natural resources and American industry. We condemn the destruction by the Democratic Party of the non-partisan Tariff Commission established under the administration of President Taft.

The Democratic tariff now in force has proved wholly inadequate either to provide revenue for the support of the government or to protect American labor and American industry upon the farm, in the factory, or in the mine. Before the outbreak of the European War, the disastrous effects of this tariff were already felt throughout the land. The war has obscured these effects, but immediately upon the restoration of peace they will be felt again with redoubled force.

GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS

We favor such legislation and such administrative action as will relieve honestly conducted business from persecution, while rigidly preventing monopoly, special privilege or unfair practices. The same clarity should be given to the law prohibiting combinations and monopolies that characterizes other provisions of commercial law in order that no part of the field of business opportunity may be restricted, that business success honorably achieved may not be suddenly converted into crime, and that the right of every man to acquire commodities in an open market may be preserved.

We insist that government regulation of business be not interpreted to mean government management of business.

We advocate measures:

(1) for the quick upbuilding of an American merchant marine by the methods that have given us industrial independence and without the economic waste and the international embarrassments of government ownership, direct or indirect; (2) for the encouragement and development of co-operation among farmers in order that they may secure better and steadier markets for their products, as well as more favorable terms of credit for the improvement of their farms and the development of agriculture; and (3) for the amendment of the Federal Reserve Law so as to increase its public benefits and remove all danger of possible inflation of the currency.

In support of these principles and policies the Republicans of New York pledge themselves to the Republicans of the nation, to join with them to the end that there may be a new birth of American patriotism and that a new pride and strength may be given to American citizenship.

On January 1, 1915, after four years of chaos, disorder, and extravagance, the Republican Party was returned to power in the State of New York. Order and efficiency have been restored, constructive legislation has been enacted, and our State Government has been placed in a position where the orderly progress of government is possible once more.

We commend Governor Whitman, the Legislature, and the entire Republican administration. We commend the Governor particularly for the courage with which he has faced the financial necessities of the State, and for his efforts to reform our fiscal system so as to insure economy and adequate public knowledge and discussion of the State's business.

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